

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN IMMEDIATE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY GENEVA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBURG IMMEDIATE

USDEL MTN GENEVA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

AMCONSUL LYON

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

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TAGS : PFOR, PINT, FR, BE, DA, GW, IT, LU, NL, UK, EI

SUBJECT : FRANCO-GERMAN BI-ANNUAL SUMMIT, NICE

1. THE FOLLOWING ARE THE MAJOR POINTS COVERED IN AN EXCLUSIVE

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INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENT VALERY GISCARD D ESTAING PUBLISHED IN

NICE-MATIN OF FEB. 12, 1976.

2. TREATY OF ROME - EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY

IN REPLY TO QUESTION REGARDING THE FACT THAT THE FRENCH DO NOT SEE MUCH PROGRESS IN THE CONCRETE REALIZATION OF EUROPE IN THE POLITICAL DOMAINE, MR GISCARD D ESTAING REPLIED :

--- IT IS A FACT THAT EUROPE HAS BEEN PREOCCUPIED, IN THE LAST FEW YEARS, BY THE RESULTS OF THE ENTRANCE OF THE NEW MEMBERS (INTO THE E.E.C.) AND THE PROBLEMS POSED BY THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CRISIS. BUT IT IS ALSO A FACT THAT EUROPE HAS NEVER CEASED TO WORRY ABOUT ITS FUTURE. IF THE COMMUNITY HAS OVERCOME THE DIFFICULTY BROUGHT ABOUT BY ITS EXPANSION AS WELL AS THE ECONOMIC CRISIS, THIS IS DUE IN A LARGE MEASURE TO THE CREATION OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL, AT THE END OF 1974, WHICH IS PRESENTLY MEETING ON A REGULAR BASIS AND CONSTITUTES, IN MY OPINION, THE CENTER OF THE POLITICAL PULSE OF EUROPE.

IT WAS AT THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL THAT IT WAS DECIDED TO PROCEED WITH THE DIRECT ELECTION OF A EUROPEAN ASSEMBLY. THIS IS CERTAINLY AN INNOVATION, THE IMPORTANCE OF WHICH SHOULD NEITHER BE EXAGGERATED NOR UNDERESTIMATED. IT SHOULD NOT BE EXAGGERATED EVEN THOUGH THE PRESENT EUROPEAN ASSEMBLY IS THE DIRECT RESULT OF UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE, EVEN IF THIS IS AN INDIRECT WAY AND THIS WAY OF ELECTION WAS FORESEEN BY THE TREATY OF ROME. IT SHOULD NOT BE UNDERESTIMATED EITHER, AS DIRECT CONSULTATION OF PEOPLES WILL BRING TOGETHER ALL EUROPEAN CITIZENS. THE REAL QUESTION, IN MY OPINION, IS NOT THE WAY THAT THE EUROPEAN ASSEMBLY IS ELECTED BUT THE MANNER IN WHICH IT ACCOMPLISHES ITS MISSION.---

3. EUROPEAN DEFENSE

NICE-MATIN POINTED OUT THAT IN VIEW OF THE FACTS THAT THE UNITED STATES IS PRESENTLY IN A PRE-ELECTION PERIOD, PRESIDENT FORD IS THE FIRST NON-ELECTED PRESIDENT, AND IN VIEW OF THE MEMORY OF CERTAIN RETRACTION FROM COMMITMENTS BY THE UNITED STATES, ONE CAN SUPPOSE THAT PERHAPS THE UNITED STATES IS LESS RELIABLE IN DEFENSE MATTERS THAN IN THE PAST, IF ITS INTERESTS ARE NOT DIRECTLY

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MENACED. SHOULD NOT WE BE WEARY, IN THE EVENT OF AN AMERICAN MILITARY PULL-OUT IN GERMANY, OF A SORT OF MILITARY VACUUM IN WESTERN EUROPE, WHICH WOULD PERHAPS CALL FOR AN INTEGRATED EUROPEAN DEFENSE ?

VALERY GISCARD D ESTAING REPLIED :

--- YOUR QUESTION DESCRIBES A HYPOTHESIS BASED ON THE FACT THAT

WHATEVER RESERVATION THE UNITED STATES MAY HAVE IN VIEW OF TAKING ON NEW INTERNATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY ON OTHER CONTINENTS, THERE IS NO SIGN OF A DESIRE TO WITHDRAW ITS ARMED FORCES PRESENTLY STATIONED IN EUROPE. BY THE WAY, I NOTE THAT THE TINDEMANS REPORT SUGGESTS NOTHING IN REGARD TO AN INTEGRATED EUROPEAN DEFENSE AND ONLY EVOKES THE PROBLEM. THERE IS NO REASON FOR FRANCE TO MODIFY THE POSITION IT HAS TAKEN AND WHICH, IN DEVELOPING ITS OWN DEFENSE FORCES, GUARANTEES A VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION TO THE SECURITY OF OUR CONTINENT.---

4. FRANCE AND THE ARAB WORLD

NICE-MATIN POINTED OUT THAT FRENCH PUBLIC OPINION DOES NOT SEEM TO HAVE REALIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE NORTH SOUTH CONFERENCE. GERMANY, HOWEVER, IS VERY MUCH AWARE OF THE PROBLEM, ABOVE ALL AT THE LEVEL OF ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CONSEQUENCES WHICH CONCERN THEIR EXPORTS TO MAGHREB AND MIDDLE EAST. THE PRESIDENT WAS ASKED IF HE THOUGHT THAT FRANCE HAS GAINED FROM ITS POLITICAL POSITION IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD ALL POSSIBLE ECONOMIC ADVANTAGES.

MR GISCARD D'ESTAING REPLIED :

--- THAT CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION DID NOT HAVE, AS AN OBJECTIVE, THE GOAL OF PERMITTING FRANCE AND GERMANY TO INCREASE THE EXPORTS TOWARDS THE OPEC COUNTRIES. BY EXAMINING THE OVERALL ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, THE REAL GOAL OF THE CONFERENCE WAS TO ENCOURAGE THE JUST FUNCTIONING OF WORLD ECONOMY. FRANCE DOES NOT LOOK FOR ECONOMIC ADVANTAGES IN LIGHT OF ITS POSITION TAKEN WITH REGARD TO MIDDLE EAST AFFAIRS. HOWEVER, THE ACTIVITIES OF FRENCH INDUSTRIALISTS IN THAT PART OF THE WORLD ARE WORTH MENTIONING AS FRANCE REMAINS THE FOREMOST SUPPLIER OF THE ARAB WORLD. THIS IS DUE TO THE POLICIES WE HAVE MAINTAINED IN THE THREE COUNTRIES OF MAGHREB SINCE WE FURNISH THESE COUNTRIES WITH MORE THAN A THIRD

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OF THEIR IMPORTS WHILE GERMANY SUPPLIES ONLY 10 PER CENT. THIS IS ALSO DUE TO THE REMARKABLE FRENCH BREAK-THROUGH IN THE MARKETS OF WHAT WE CALL THE MACHREK, NOTABLY IN EGYPT AND IRAK, BUT ALSO IN SYRIA WHERE FRANCE HAS BEEN THE FOREMOST SUPPLIER OF CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT IN 1975.---

5. COMMERCIAL EXCHANGES

BOTH FRANCE AND GERMANY, TO DIFFERENT DEGREES, HAVE TO FIGHT AT THE SAME TIME AGAINST INFLATION AND FOR THE STIMULATION OF THE ECONOMY. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT, FOR CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT, THE WAGER IS IMPORTANT. AS GERMANY IS BOTH OUR MOST IMPORTANT CLIENT AND OUR MOST IMPORTANT SUPPLIER, DO YOU NOT THINK THAT THE TIMING OF THE NEXT GERMAN ELECTIONS MAY POSSIBLY HAVE AN INFLUENCE ON THE

NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN FRANCE AND FEDERAL REPUBLIC ?

MR GISCARD D ESTAING REPLIED THAT :

--- THE PARALLEL POLICIES FOLLOWED BY BOTH FRANCE AND GERMANY PERMIT US TO OBSERVE A BETTERMENT OF THE ECONOMIES IN BOTH COUNTRIES. YOU HAVE JUSTLY POINTED OUT THAT GERMANY IS, WITHOUT A DOUBT OUR FIRST COMMERCIAL PARTNER. I ALSO WOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT THAT IN SPITE OF THE INCREASE IN THE COST OF ENERGY, FRANCE HAS MANAGED TO CONSOLIDATE ITS POSITIONS ON THE GERMAN MARKET IN THE LAST TWO YEARS. FRANCE CAN ONLY BENEFIT BY THE STIMULATION OF THE ECONOMY IN GERMANY. THE REVERSE, HOWEVER, IS ALSO TRUE.

MARKET SHARES FIGURES (INCLUDING ENERGY)

	73	74	75
FRANCE IN GERMANY	13 PCENT	11.8 PCENT	12 PCENT
GERMANY IN FRANCE	22.7PCENT	19.2PCENT	18.8 PCENT

6. FRANCO-GERMAN RELATIONS ESSENTIAL FOR THE EUROPEAN CONSTRUCTION

TO THE QUESTION : FRANCO-GERMAN SUMMITS ARE NOW TRADITIONAL. SHOULD WE NOT BE ON OUR GUARD TO ASSURE THAT THESE SUMMITS DO NOT BECOME SUCH THAT OUR OTHER EUROPEAN PARTNERS MAY TAKE OFFENSE TO THESE RELATIONS AND NOT APPRECIATE THESE PREFERENTIAL CONTACTS ?

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THE PRESIDENT REPLIED :

--- I DON T THINK SO AT ALL. FIRST, EVERYBODY KNOWS THAT GOOD FRANCO-GERMAN RELATIONS ARE OF ESSENTIAL IMPORTANCE FOR EUROPE. WITHOUT GOOD FRANCO-GERMAN RELATIONS EUROPE CANNOT EXIST. GENERAL DE GAULLE AND CHANCELLOR ADENAUER WERE THE FIRST TO RECOGNIZE THIS FACT. THE GOOD RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES IS THE STARTING POINT OF THE EUROPEAN CONSTRUCTION AND IS ESSENTIAL FOR PROGRESS . A LACK OF SUCH CONTACTS WOULD CERTAINLY JUSTIFY OUR PARTNERS WORRIES. OUR (EEC) PARTNERS HAVE EVEN LESS REASON FOR BEING CONCERNED ABOUT OUR GOOD RELATIONS, AND ALTHOUGH FRANCO-GERMAN RELATIONS ARE PARTICULARLY CLOSE, THEY ARE NOT EXCLUSIVE AND DO NOT PREVENT ANY OF US FROM MAINTAINING FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH OUR OTHER EUROPEAN PARTNERS.---

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